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COUNTRY Hungary

**SUBJECT** Atomic Physics Research  
in Hungary

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1. Up to the present moment there are no research facilities for nuclear physics in Hungary. The present state of affairs in related fields and plans for future developments are as follows: 25X

2. The following are the most capable physicians still in Hungary:

K. Novdatzky      University of Budapest, theoretical physicist,  
Communist, now an old man.

I. Kovacs                      University of Sopron, molecular physicist, fanatical  
Communist, recently gave a talk on the Heisenberg  
Relation trying to prove that the idea was to be  
found in dialectic materialism and had been independently  
expressed by Stalin.

A. Budo                      University of Szeged, experimental physicist,  
non-Communist.

S. Szalay                      University of Debrecen, outstanding experimental atomic physicist, age around 40, without character.

All the above are shortly expected to be called to Budapest to work together in the new experimental physics institute being set up in the University of Budapest.

3. The Hungarian Government is trying to get the following to return to Hungary:

Hevesy Nuclear physicist, age around 60, was once a Communist, was with Bohr in Copenhagen and is now in Stockholm. is anxious to return to Hungary. In December 1948 officials in Budapest were announcing privately that Hevesy was definitely returning and would become the director of the new institute for nuclear physics in Budapest for which a new set of laboratory buildings was to be built. If Hevesy were to head such an institute, sizeable progress in nuclear physics could be achieved in Hungary within five years.

**Kahan** Nuclear physicist, now with Joliot-Curie in Paris. Also

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Hevesy anxious to return to Hungary.

Janossy

Nuclear physicist, now in Dublin, is the stepson of Professor Lukacs, chief organizer of scientific projects for the Hungarian Communist Party. Also reported to be anxious to return to Hungary. With Hevesy, would form an excellent team for nuclear research.

4. The University of Budapest consists of a technical school known as the Technical University and the University proper, containing the "philosophical" faculties and known as the University of Sciences. The Physics Institute of the University of Sciences is to be developed into a nuclear physics research institute. It is not clear yet whether Hevesy and Janossy, should they return, would function here or whether the new nuclear research facilities to be built for them would be independent of the University, possibly under military supervision (see below).
5. In addition to the two universities above, both of which can be regarded in the future as technical schools, the Hungarian Government is planning to build ten new technical schools and to complete the building of all of them by 1950. At the moment three are already completed. Each of these would produce yearly from two to five thousand engineers.
6. The Academy of Sciences of Hungary, a long-established institution, has recently attracted the interest of Matyas Rakosi, General Secretary of the Hungarian Workers (Communist) Party. Previously this academy, like most institutions of its sort, extended the honors of membership to recognized scientists and foregathered for a limited number of annual meetings and lectures. Rakosi wishes to transform it into an organization like the Soviet academies, i.e., a united research institute where scientists in the same field would work together on joint projects and have special equipment put at their disposal. Rakosi wishes to liquidate the present academy and to rebuild it, putting 500,000 forint per month at the disposal of the new institution.
7. The Scientific Council (Tudomanyos Tanacs) was first brought into being in June 1948 under the presidency of Erno Gero, Minister of Industry. It consists of three sections:
  - a. Natural Sciences
  - b. Technical Sciences
  - c. Social-Political Sciences

The purpose in the organization of this council was to put all the chief representatives of Hungarian science at the service of the government, and especially of the military. At the latest deliberations of the technical scientific section of the Council, plans were made for acquisition or building of a cyclotron and a Van de Graaf generator for the Physics Institute of the University of Budapest. It was agreed that although at present there was not enough trained personnel to exploit this equipment properly, the presence of such equipment would excellently serve for propaganda purposes, and the necessary personnel could be trained in the course of time.
8. Through the Scientific Council, the Military Technical Institute of the Hungarian Army approached the Physics Institute of the University of

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Budapest with the plan that the latter devote itself entirely to military needs, especially the development of atomic-defense weapons, Geiger-Müller counters, apparatus for registering the flight of guided missiles, et cetera.

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